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4/15/03  
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F-6485

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Roland FISCHER et al.  
Serial No. : 09/509,808  
For : WOOD COMPONENT AND METHOD FOR THE  
PRODUCTION AND APPLICATION OF THE SAME  
Examiner : Not yet known  
Group Art Unit : Not yet known

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-23 and substitute therefor the following claims:

Rule 126  
5/27  
AX  
29  
24. Wood component in which the wood has altered properties in geometrically defined near-surface areas characterized in that said geometrically defined near-surface areas have the properties of solidified wood melts free from pyrolytic degradation products.